



**Peter  
McVerry  
Trust**

Opening doors for  
homeless people

# openingdoors

Spring 2017 Volume 12 Issue 1

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## Regular Giving – Direct Debit

Regular donations are an effective way to support Peter McVerry Trust. The promise of a regular donation ensures that we can plan and budget for our long term commitments to support individuals experiencing homelessness. If you would like to support Peter McVerry Trust with a regular direct debit donation, please visit

[www.pmvtrust.ie/donate](http://www.pmvtrust.ie/donate)



## Peter McVerry Trust Supports 4,584 People in 2016

In 2016, Peter McVerry Trust worked with 4,584 individuals. These individuals were supported across our wide range of services and supports in Dublin, Kildare, Limerick and Laois with almost 4,000 people provided with accommodation during 2016.

At year end, Peter McVerry Trust accommodated over 750 people per night. The majority of those with whom we engage and support continue to be young single males in the 18-35 age bracket. Indeed this group continue to make up the largest cohort within homeless services and face severe challenges in accessing affordable accommodation in the private rental market.



## Peter McVerry Trust Challenge Events 2017

**Great Western  
Greenway**  
29/30th April



**Slieve Donard  
Challenge**  
27th May



**Camino  
Portuguese**  
2nd-9th September



## Note from Pat Doyle CEO

### Welcome to the latest edition of Peter McVerry Trust's Opening Doors Newsletter.

In this edition, you'll find information on our activities since October 2016. Once again, it was a very busy winter as Peter McVerry Trust responded to the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

I'm pleased that this edition of the newsletter offers an insight into three new services opened by Peter McVerry Trust in late 2016 as part of our ongoing response. These three services brought 101 new beds into the homeless sector in Dublin and Kildare at a critical time of year. They offer high quality, long-term accommodation with professional support staff.

In 2017, our primary goal is to focus on increasing the number of new homes we can secure to help people exit homelessness. We are very much focused on delivering further numbers of housing through our construction projects, in addition to working intensively to help people secure private rental accommodation.

Our campaign to reuse the tens of thousands of vacant houses in our cities and throughout Ireland has continued to grow. In early March 2017, Peter McVerry Trust organised Ireland's first ever Empty Homes Conference. The conference, which included a number of Irish and International speakers, was a critical step towards developing

solutions to get the thousands of empty homes back into use.

Readers of the Opening Doors Newsletter will be aware that Peter McVerry Trust has successfully turned many empty units into high

quality homes and we will be welcoming our first tenants to our latest project, St Agatha's Court, in the days that you receive this newsletter.

The work outlined above and set out in this edition of the newsletter would of course not be possible without your generosity and kindness. I'd like to thank all of you for your continued

support of Peter McVerry Trust's work at a time of real crisis.

I wish you a happy Easter and look forward to updating you again in our winter edition of the Opening Doors newsletter, when I hope to share more progress on our housing programme.

**Pat Doyle**  
CEO



*In 2017, our primary goal is to focus on increasing the number of new homes we can secure to help people exit homelessness.*

## EMPTY HOMES CONFERENCE

Since October 2014, Peter McVerry Trust has been formally campaigning for greater investment in empty homes, derelict sites and underused spaces.

The latest stage in the campaign saw Peter McVerry Trust organise Ireland's first Empty Homes Conference which took place on March 9th in Dublin. The event heard expert presentations from a wide range of stakeholders and agencies with attendees coming from Ireland, UK and the Netherlands.

The conference was organised in order to identify the barriers and opportunities presented by empty homes, derelict sites and underused spaces. The latest figures suggest that there are almost 200,000 empty homes in Ireland and the potential to develop thousands of additional homes over the shop.

The conference debate and outcomes will feed into the Government's Empty Homes Strategy which is due for publication shortly.



## Launch of Regional Office Limerick

The charity opened its first regional office just before Christmas as part of the roll out of Peter McVerry Trust's social housing programme in Limerick. Fourteen people were taken directly from homeless services in the region by the charity and were given a key to the door of their own home.

Peter McVerry Trust's Housing with Supports team is now providing 24 hour assistance to the new tenants. CEO Pat Doyle said, "Peter McVerry Trust has become a leader in providing permanent accommodation with wrap-around supports for people with a range of issues including mental health difficulties, addiction and family breakdown. We treat people with

warmth and respect, and support them to integrate into society and live a life of dignity, and that's what we will do in Limerick."

The charity aims to acquire 30 units of accommodation by the end of 2017 so that more people in Limerick can close the door on homelessness for good.



## Kildare

In late 2016, Peter McVerry Trust brought into operation Kildare's first aftercare housing for young people leaving the State care system. Peter McVerry Trust has long campaigned for clear housing pathways for young people leaving care to prevent them from entering adult homeless services. These two new units are the start of such pathways being provided as part of our Kildare services.

Peter McVerry Trust was able to provide an additional seven new emergency homeless beds in Kildare through the development of additional capacity at our site in Newbridge. This brings the total of emergency beds now provided in Kildare to 21. (Further details of the latest seven homeless service beds can be found on page 4).

Peter McVerry Trust's new service in Athy, Co. Kildare, is on schedule to open in April, 2017. This service, when completed, will offer accommodation for families, couples and individuals at the site of the former Dominican monastery.



## St Agatha's Housing Project

The social housing regeneration programme at St Agatha's Court, Dublin 1, is nearing completion. By the end of April 2017, we will be giving our first tenants a key to their own door and we will be welcoming them into their new homes.

This major capital programme is delivering 11 high quality, spacious and modern apartments for individuals moving out of homelessness. This development is an important milestone in the north inner city because it replaces a former

derelict site and vacant building that previously attracted ongoing anti-social behaviour.

This regeneration project will lift the community and provide people experiencing homelessness with long-term, stable accommodation from which they can build their lives. The project is delivered in partnership with the Dept. of Housing and Dublin City Council. The work is funded under the Capital Assistance Scheme, the Community Foundation for Ireland and Peter McVerry Trust.



## Latest Job Vacancies

Would you like to, or do you know someone who would like to, join Peter McVerry Trust in supporting some of the most marginalised people in Ireland today? Peter McVerry Trust is currently seeking to hire a number of positions in the field of social care.

To apply, visit [www.pmvtrust.ie/vacancies](http://www.pmvtrust.ie/vacancies) to view the job description and to download an application form.

# openingdoors Inside our Services

## Ellis Quay, Dublin

Peter McVerry Trust opened a 70-bed Supported Temporary Accommodation service near Ellis Quay, Dublin 7. All placements offered to the 30 women and 40 men are for a minimum of six months, and each person has 24 hour access to the hostel which provides greater stability for people who need emergency accommodation.

The hostel is of a very high quality, with a variety of room types including single and double occupancy, a custom designed kitchen, common area, shower facilities and computers, which are all at the disposal of the service users. This service was opened in partnership with Dublin City Council.



## North City, Dublin

The charity opened a 14 bed Supported Temporary Accommodation service in the Northside of Dublin city to provide emergency accommodation for single men. This is a demographic that finds it most difficult to find

suitable and affordable accommodation so it is vital that Peter McVerry Trust ensures that single people are not forgotten in the provision of homeless services.



Peter McVerry Trust opened seven additional beds in our Newbridge service. These apartment style, step down accommodation units are crucial because they often allow a person, who may have been living in homelessness for some time, to transition back into independent living whilst maintaining the support of our social care workers on site.

## Newbridge, Kildare



# Presentation to the Committee on Housing

Peter McVerry Trust gave a presentation to the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to highlight the issue of empty buildings, derelict sites and underused space in Ireland.

Representatives of the charity discussed figures from Census 2016 that revealed that there are almost 200,000 vacant properties across the State, at a time when a great need for housing exists.

National Director of Services, Brian Friel, said, "One of the biggest challenges the State faces in tackling vacancy rates is that there is no real time data to ascertain how many empty units there are, the conditions of the units, who owns the unit and the reason why so many buildings remain vacant."



# Reusing Dublin

Reusing Dublin was originally created and developed by UCD PhD students, Aoife Corcoran and Philip Crowe.

This research project sought to map vacant and derelict sites in the City. The website allows users to log the location and pictures of any underused sites or empty buildings around Dublin to build an up-to-date understanding of the types of spaces that could be reused for housing.

The new phase of Reusing Dublin operated by Peter McVerry Trust will seek to increase awareness of the issue of vacancy in the City. You can visit the website and sign the petition calling on the Government to take action on empty homes and underused space at [www.reusingdublin.ie](http://www.reusingdublin.ie)



# Peter McVerry Trust Seeks Rental Properties to Rent or Lease

Peter McVerry Trust is urgently seeking properties to lease or rent. These units would be used to offer housing to people currently in emergency homeless accommodation. The charity is specifically interested in properties in Dublin, Kildare and Limerick at the moment.

Unfortunately, it is very difficult for a single homeless person to secure private rental accommodation. The lack of affordable accommodation and the overall shortage of properties is forcing people to spend longer and longer in emergency settings.

Peter McVerry Trust has a comprehensive package that includes property maintenance, tenant supports and management, and other benefits that can offer long term security of income and peace of mind for property owners.

**If you have a property that you would be interested in renting or leasing to Peter McVerry Trust, please contact us on +353 (0)1 823 0776 or email [info@pmvtrust.ie](mailto:info@pmvtrust.ie)**



# Fundraising News and Events 2017

Join Peter McVerry Trust's team in 2017 and help us end homelessness

Peter McVerry Trust has a number of challenges to choose from in 2017. Whether you want to run a 10k, Walk the Camino, set a PB for the Marathon, or climb a mountain, we have the challenge to help you get fit, meet new people AND change the lives of young people experiencing homelessness.

**Great Western Greenway**  
29th -30th April 2017



**Calcutta Run & Cycle Sportive**  
20th May



**Slieve Donard Challenge**  
27th May



**VHI Women's Mini Marathon**  
5th June



**Trek Camino**  
2-9th September



**Wexford Cycle**  
16th September



**Opening Doors Appeal**  
9th-15th October



**Opening Doors Night Run**  
14th October



**Dublin City Marathon**  
29th October



**Annual Christmas Fundraising Appeal Launch**  
1st November



**Gala Ball**  
17th November



**Christmas Carol Concert**  
9th December



## OPENINGDOORSAPPEAL2017

**October 9th -15th**

Peter McVerry Trust's Opening Doors Appeal aims to create change and make a difference to the lives of those experiencing homelessness using World Homeless Day as a platform. We are encouraging schools, churches, clubs and businesses to take action and make a significant difference in your local community.

Some fundraising initiatives taking place will include our Schools Appeal, Business Breakfast, a number of online fundraising appeals, as well as a new and unique, 8km Night Run.

To get involved, or find out how you can support people experiencing homelessness during this Opening Doors Appeal, visit [www.pmvtrust.ie](http://www.pmvtrust.ie) or call +353 (0)1 823 0776

## YOUR DONATION COULD GO EVEN FURTHER!

Tax Relief on Charitable Donations  
We can reclaim the tax on donations of €250 or more, from **both PAYE and/ or self-assessed taxpayers**, at a new blended rate of 31%. Please contact the fundraising office on +353 (0)1 823 0776 to request an annual or enduring Tax Relief Form (CHY3/4), or to find out more.

## New York Marathon 2017

Would you like to run through the 5 boroughs of New York on Sunday 5th November on behalf of Peter McVerry Trust?

We have a limited number of places available for the run of a lifetime.

To find out more about securing your place call +353 (0)1 823 0776.



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Place of registration Dublin, Ireland.

Registration number: CLG 98934.

Charity registration numbers: CHY 7256 /20015282.



Peter McVerry Trust would like to wish all our supporters a Happy Easter.